

## Hard To Fight Tyranny

Back in the middle of World War I, when things were going badly for England and France, Raul Lufbery of Wallingford, Connecticut, helped organize the Lafayette Escadrille so that U. S. flyers could join in the fighting even though we were not yet in that conflict.

The name of that famed squadron came from the Frenchman who helped the United States during the Revolutionary War.

This sort of heroism is not new. But if the United States policy now opposes such individual acts against Castro and other tyrants, it is apparently out of date.

Several weeks ago, a New England student announced he had taken part in a one-plane air raid against Castro Cuba. The raid was aimed at oil installations in Havana, and official reports said that the bombs failed to explode. But anti-Castro underground sources said that a noise had been heard, indicating that something had been hit.

The plane in question, a small two-engine executive craft, reportedly took off on the mission from a point which would have not caused an infringement of U. S. neutrality laws. But the United States government has now made a formal seizure of the plane and is holding it at Bradley Field, near Hartford, Connecticut. The owner, Alexander Rorke Jr., insists the airplane was seized without a warrant and that no charges have been preferred against him.

Rorke has suffered other setbacks in his action against Castro. He wanted to stage a raid in his power boat, the *Violette III*,

from Norman's Key, a British island in the Bahamas. The British said "No." So Rorke headed back for Florida. At Dinner Key, the boat was seized by the United States Coast Guard.

It appears that in the case of open hostility towards Castro, the days of the "Yank in the RAF" or the late General Claire Chennault and his "Flying Tigers" are over.

The first example refers to the Eagle Squadron, in which U.S. aviators fought against the Nazis, and the second refers to the well-known Louisiana general's battle in China with the Japanese invaders.

Incidentally, Rorke, who is an Irishman, has good reason to ponder the double standard of the U. S. government. He claims he has conducted leaflet-dropping raids over Cuba with the tab picked up by the Central Intelligence Agency. But when he tried to use something stronger than leaflets, he was halted by the government.

Rorke, who still owes payments on his airplane, insists that no charges have been filed against him by the government. Yet both his plane and his boat are in custody. His case sounds like one of a disillusioned adventurer and single-handed anti-Castro fighter.

But one of his questions points up the change of U. S. attitude regarding the Castro government. Why, prior to 1962, was the government itself involved in violating a position of neutrality toward Cuba, and why is this position so rigidly enforced today?